

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1-33 are pending, with claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 being in independent form. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-14, 18-22, 25 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,052,445 to Bashoura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,437,871 to Yuki. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 15-17, 21, 23-25, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bashoura in view of Yuki and U.S. Patent No. 5,381,527 to Inniss et al. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bashoura. Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bashoura in view of Inniss.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to network facsimile operations. The claimed invention of independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 of the present application is directed to improvements devised by Applicant for network facsimile devices including providing means for registering for each destination plural address information (for example, an electronic mail address, an IP address and a telephone number) corresponding to plural respective communication modes (for example, by electronic mail, by real time Internet communication, by facsimile communication through a public network, etc.) for transmitting the document image information to the destination, and providing means allowing an operator to select one of the destinations and one of the communication modes by designating one of the addresses registered

for the destination, and the document image information is transmitted to the designated destination via the designated communication mode corresponding to the selected address.

Neither Bashoura nor Yuki discloses or suggests that the operator is provided with means to select one of the destinations and one of the communication modes by designating one of the addresses registered for the destination, and the document image information is transmitted to the designated destination via the designated communication mode corresponding to the selected address.

Bashoura, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a fax director device which can be connected to a conventional facsimile machine, to perform automatic fax routing of transmissions from the standard fax machine. The fax director decodes a telephone number which is encoded by the fax machine in a facsimile transmission, and then compares the decoded telephone number to a look-up table. If an Internet address corresponding to the decoded telephone number is found in the table, the fax is converted to a computer file, and then sent to the matched Internet address. The user is not presented with a choice of plural communication modes, and the rerouting of the transmission through the Internet is transparent to the user.

Yuki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a facsimile apparatus which stores for each destination a telephone number, an IP address and cost information. When the user selects a destination for a facsimile, a CPU automatically determines the cheapest communication mode for transmitting the facsimile to the destination, and transmits the facsimile to the destination via the cheapest communication mode. The communication mode is not selected by the user.

Inniss, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a system for distribution of messages through a prioritized distribution channels (for example, facsimile transmission, voice communication by telephone, electronic mail, voice mail, etc.).

Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in the cited art, however, of a network

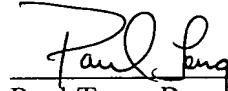
facsimile device which comprises input means for designating one address among the plurality of addresses to which the document image information is to be transmitted, wherein an operator selects one of the plurality of destinations and one of the plurality of communication modes by designating the one address among the plurality of addresses using the input means, as provided by the claimed invention of this application.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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